

TN SHIP/SMPP Newsletter

August 2006

TN SHIP 1-877-801-0044

TN SMPP 1-866-836-7677

State Health Insurance Assistance Program, "Local Help for people with Medicare".

Senior Medicare Patrol Project, fighting Medicare/Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse.

New Medicare Campaign

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is now in the process of introducing the 2007 new Medicare Campaign, "My Health. My Medicare."

The focus of the new campaign is preventive services and accessing the new personal tool on the Medicare website.

Since the MMA (Medicare Modernization Act 2003), Medicare offers more comprehensive coverage of medical screenings and

preventive health care services than ever before.

In the updated publication, "Guide to Medicare's Preventive Services" and another called "Staying Healthy Medicare's Preventive Services", covered tests and services are listed.

Coverage for preventive services include: 1) one time "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam; 2) cardiovascular screenings; 3) screening

mammograms; 4) pap test and pelvic exam; 5) colorectal cancer screening; 6) various immunization shots; 7) diabetes and prostate cancer screenings; 8) glaucoma tests.

In addition, Medicare is offering a personalized tool on www.medicare.gov in which a person can register and after receiving a password in the mail, log on to view claims, deductible status, and a list of services still available.



Medicare Updates: Beyond Part D

On August 1, CMS provided a Medicare Update training in Atlanta, GA. The training was attended by SHIPs, SMPPs, health care workers, representatives from political offices, and other interested parties.

Much of the day was focused on the updates to the Medicare part D enrollment issues and the upcoming first Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), November 15 – December 31, 2006.

Attendees learned that premiums, deductibles, and co-payments for part D will increase for 2007. Beneficiaries will be notified of changes by the individual plans as well as through the "Medicare & You 2007" handbook issued in October nationwide.

During AEP, Medicare beneficiaries who did not choose a part D plan before May 15th, can enroll into a plan. Others who did choose a plan can switch. Effective date of

enrollment and changes will be January 1, 2007.

If beneficiaries choose again not to enroll into a drug plan, they will have to wait until the next AEP (November 15 – December 31, 2007) and a penalty of 1% increase of the standard monthly premium will apply to the plan for the duration of coverage.

New Medicare beneficiaries will have an Initial Enrollment period upon eligibility.





Medicare Demonstrations in TN

"CMS together with XL Health have recently launched the Medicare Health Support Program of Tennessee. Approximately 20,000 beneficiaries affected by diabetes and/or congestive heart failure have been invited to participate in the three-year program, which is part of a larger pilot program being conducted in eight states across the country."

Through this demonstration,

participating beneficiaries will receive specialized services, free of charge, such as: *personal support team; *medication counseling session; *in-home health monitoring tools; *self-care education; *dietary counseling & more.

Beneficiaries will be contacted directly by XL Health and provided detailed information packet and help line number for further

information.

This program will not change the beneficiary's Medicare coverage. It will only enhance the services that he/she already receives.

Those who qualify are living with chronic health conditions and will be individually invited to participate.

XL Health, 1-877-717-2247

Fraud/Scam Alert!!!!

Anyone want to go "Vishing"? Well, this practice does not involve a cane pole or a stocked pond! Instead, it takes advantage of vulnerable individuals by stealing identities and money.

Mass-produced recorded phone messages are sent out to blanket specific areas. Caller ID information will show that the call is coming from a local bank or government agency.

Recipients are directed to call a special number for the local entity immediately because of fraud or other urgent problems involving their accounts.

When the call is answered, an automated service asks the caller to enter personal identifying numbers such as social security or account numbers.

This enables the thief on the

other end to begin withdrawals from accounts and/or cash advances from credit cards.

Please, advise consumers that they should contact their bank or other identified agency directly to verify the legitimacy of these calls.

Welcome VISTA Members

Janice Bowman has recently been selected to work as a VISTA member with the Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging & Disability SHIP.

Our VISTA members work

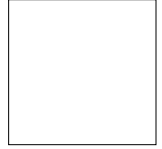
with TN SHIPs to develop volunteer recruitment plans and sustainable volunteer programs.

Our members now include, Janice, Thelma Stewart,

and Trenda Henry at UCDD; Chaquita Henley at Southwest; and Nicole Robinson at Southeast.

Each AAAD has been mailed VISTA brochures and a recruitment guide in July.

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